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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

Bulgaria

SUBJECT

The Hunting and Fishing Union

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1. This union (the Hunting and Fishing Union) is a semi-military organization. Its organized members are equipped with pistols, submachine guns, carbines, and hand grenades, in addition to hunting rifles. In case of need they help out the directorate of the militia. They help out the militia in cities and the border guards along the borders.
2. The chairman of the union is Radenko Vidinski, who is 56 years old, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, now a minister, a former director of the militia after 9 Sep 44. He immigrated to the USSR and later entered Bulgaria illegally. After he entered Bulgaria illegally he was made a partisan colonel.
3. A youth section called "The Union of Young Riflemen" is attached to the Hunting and Fishing Union. Only Communist youths recommended by the Party and the directorate of the State Security are allowed to join this youth union. After completing their secondary school education, these young people enter the Vasil Levski military school in Sofia to become regular officers.
4. Hunters and fishers who are attached to the militia, border guard, the DOSG (Voluntary Organization for Defense Cooperation) and Tayfun, as well as to the intelligence department of the army and to political commissars in the army, are regularly chosen at Okoliya meetings. At these meetings they report on their activities and receive directives as regards the pursuit of illegal entrance and anti-Communist groups. They must pursue saboteurs and members of the opposition. These meetings are attended constantly by representatives of the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of the Interior, and the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party.
5. The border zone is divided into sectors for the "hunters and fishermen" activists. They must at all times keep in touch with the "center" of this "sector". This "center" directs them to observe the border, to pursue diversionaries, and to capture persons who are trying to cross the border fleeing from the Communist authorities who pursue them.

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6. Several times during the year the representatives of these "centers" of "sectors", as well as emerging activists are called to meetings in Sofia, Stalin, Burgas, and Plovdiv. At these meetings the activities of the Hunting and Fishing Union are discussed. Those who are devoted to the government are given medals, hunting rifles, fishing equipment, hunting clothes, etc in order to increase the police activities of the members of the union.
7. The activities of the Hunting and Fishing Union are controlled by Soviet military and political commissars, who have their headquarters in the Ministry of Defense.

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